

Why God is Right to Damn Wrong, Part 3 - Romans 1:24-25 – March 27th, 2011

- This is part three of a series titled; "Why God is Right to Damn Wrong." I need to issue a warning for the benefit of those just joining us.
- Because this chapter deals with mature subject matter I would encourage you to discern whether or not it's appropriate for your children.
- The reason for this, is that we will be dealing with abhorrent sexual sin, and I don't have permission to sanitize the graphic details in the text.

- We're going to pick it up where we left off last Sunday, and commence in verse 24, where we have our 7th reason God is right to damn wrong.

7. They are given over to sexual impurity (Verse 24)

(24) Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

- v24 Paul describes how God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity to degrade their bodies with one another.
- It's important we have a correct understanding of what it means when God gives them over to their sin, as Paul will say this two more times.
- God giving one over to sin carries with it the idea of God's wrath releasing and allowing one to freely sin to his own destruction and damnation.

- There's something else that we need to know in order to better understand the "why" behind the "what" of God giving one over to sexual sin.
- When the Apostle Paul writes, by the Holy Spirit, this letter to the Romans, he is actually still in the corrupt and perverted city of Corinth.
- All that Paul would have to do was look out his window, and he would have seen all forms of unimaginable sexual perversion and debauchery.

- This would explain why we have a specific detail, easily missed at first glance, that's given to us in the verse that we have in front of us.
- Notice that Paul doesn't say; "God gave them over in the sinful desires of their flesh," rather he says that it's the sinful desires of their hearts.
- Lest you think this is a nebulous detail with no significance or difference in its meaning, consider what William Newell says in his commentary.

This is deeper than the mere lusts of the flesh. Flesh has natural desires, which may or may not be yielded to. The lusts of the heart continue after the flesh is dissolved; and even when, in the tormented bodies of the damned, the lusts of the flesh cannot be conscious or controlling, "the lusts of the heart" will forever exist. Notice that when man is delivered from Divine restraint, the lusts of his heart plunge him into ever deeper bodily uncleanness, and bodily vileness. History backs up this fact with terrible relentlessness. William Newell

- I would suggest to you that not only does history back up this fact with terrible relentlessness, but present day local news backs it up as well.

- I'll take this one step further before we move on and say that this man has been given over the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity.
- Furthermore, if God is not right to damn this man who's been given over to unthinkable perversion, then not only is He not right, He's not God.
- The damning forensic evidence proves in this, the courtroom of eternity, that God is right to judge the guilt of man, sentencing him to death.

8. They are guilty of replacing the truth for a lie (Verse 25a)

(25a) They exchanged the truth of God for a lie...

- v25a Paul goes on to describe how that they have become guilty of exchanging what they know to be the truth of God for a lie in place of God.
- This should come as no surprise. When man rejects the true God, he is now in the market for a new god, thus he exchanges the truth for a lie.
- Their replacement god is no god at all, in that this false god is a lie they've believed because they're deceived, explaining what we see next.

9. They are serving created things not the Creator (Verse 25b)

(25b) ...and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

- v25b It's because of this lie that they are both worshipping, and serving, created things rather than the Creator Who is to forever to be praised.
- Sadly, we have here, yet another why behind the what of man protecting the lives of animals and insects while terminating the lives of babies.
- In replacing the truth of God for a lie, man opens himself up to, and is given over to, acting as an animal serving the created not the Creator.

- By the way, let me parenthetically say, that we're actually seeing this today in Japan with the Shintoists and the Middle East with the Islamists.
- The common denominator being the Shinto worship of created things from rivers to rocks, and the Muslim worship of the moon god Allah.
- Another common thread woven into fabric of these false religions is venerating the so called martyrs in Kamikaze and Jihad suicide missions.

- Be that as it may, and suffice it to say, that in this, the last days, not much has changed since Paul's day, as history is married to prophecy.
- I believe that it will be this same delusion that causes mankind to worship and serve the Anti-Christ, who replaces Christ during the tribulation.
- Once again, we have here an interest detail, easily missed at first glance. Notice how Paul writes of Creator God, that he is forever praised.

"Paul's adding these humble, worshipful words after "Creator" both glorifies God and also differentiates Paul from the abandoned devotees of sin thronging the dark alley of human history; showing him to be a child of light, as is every real saint of God, though passing through a world of thick darkness." William Newell

- Right about now you may be asking yourself what this means to you when that alarm clock goes off tomorrow morning, and off to work you go.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me in closing, as I attempt to suggest the application of this teaching about rejecting God and worshipping animals.
- To do this, I would like to present a two-fold question, with the hopes that we will allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts for the answer.

- Have I rejected a truth that God has revealed to me, replacing it with something or someone else that has become the object of my devotion?
- If so, could that be the reason I'm having emotional, physical, or even sexual problems. Is that why I don't worship or serve God as I once did?